

BILINGUAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

1500–1700	PRE-COLONIAL AMERICA <ul style="list-style-type: none">Profusion of indigenous languages, cultures, myths and ideologies.Estimated 250–1,000 American Indian languages spoken in 15th century America at the time of European contact (does not include language diversity of Central and South America).	COLONIZATION/FOUNDING <ul style="list-style-type: none">U.S. founders envisioned “a country with a unified history, with unified traditions, and with a common language” based on the English legal system and schooling practices.No official language or government-sanctioned body to regulate speech within the government construct.	1700–1880	PERMISSIVE PERIOD <ul style="list-style-type: none">Marked by an attitude of tolerance or benign neglect. Bilingualism was not actively promoted, seemed to abide by a policy of linguistic assimilation without coercion.Immigrant communities (enclaves) established along cultural and linguistic lines.Bilingual or non-English language instruction was offered in public or private schools in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Colorado, Oregon, Wisconsin, Texas, etc. to account for localized groups of language minorities.		
1880–1923	RESTRICTIVE PERIOD <ul style="list-style-type: none">Repressive Indian language policy with political end to “civilize and contain” Indians on their reservations.Approach to teaching language minority students:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Americanization</i>—preparation for integration into mainstream society<i>Submersion</i>—responsibility lies on the language learner, not the schools, to make the appropriate cultural, linguistic, and cognitive adjustments to achieve assimilation into American society.	1889 <ul style="list-style-type: none">English-only school laws adopted by some states in response to the American Protective Association.	1890 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Immigration Restriction League founded, proposed literacy test for immigrants.	1906 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Naturalization Act required naturalized U.S. citizens to speak English.	1918–1920 <ul style="list-style-type: none">World War I fostered anti-German hostility, promoted monolingualism as a show of nationalism.Bureau of Nationalization and Bureau of Education sponsor bills to “finance the teaching of English to aliens and native illiterates.”	1923 <ul style="list-style-type: none">34 states mandate English-only instruction in all schools.<i>Meyer v. Nebraska</i>: Supreme Court declares Nebraska’s prohibition against teaching foreign languages in elementary schools unconstitutional.
1960–1980	OPPORTUNIST PERIOD <ul style="list-style-type: none">1958: National Defense Act raises foreign language education in the U.S. to compete with Russia in response to Sputnik. Foreign language study for English monolinguals encouraged, yet wastes existing linguistic resources of speakers of other languages by mandating English-only instruction in the classrooms.1959: Cuban Revolution causes communities of exiled Cubans in Florida to rebuild bilingual education programs aimed to sustain native language and culture for children expecting to return to Cuba. Supportive professional Cuban parents, federal assistance through the Cuban Refugee Act, and low levels of racism are cited as factors to the success of these two-way bilingual programs.	1964 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Civil Rights Act establishes the Office for Civil Rights.	1965 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Immigration Act revokes Naturalization Act of 1906. Numbers of Asian and Latino immigrants surge.	1968 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Still ambiguous and somewhat controversial, the Bilingual Education Act strives to recognize students’ native languages and cultures within school programs and practices.	1974 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Lau v. Nichols</i> concludes that equal treatment of English-speaking and non-English-speaking students does not constitute equal educational opportunity, yet does not prescribe any curricular content or methodology to restore English language learners’ civil rights.Equal Educational Opportunities Act affirms Lau decision and expands its jurisdiction to all schools.	
	1975 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Lau v. Nichols</i> Remedies:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gives blueprint for schools to identify language-minority students and determine their English-language proficiency.Specifies pedagogical strategies.Determines professional standards for bilingual teachers.Requires school districts to provide evidence of effective education for language minority students.					
1980–2004	DISMISSIVE PERIOD <ul style="list-style-type: none">English Only, U.S. English, English First political pressure groups arise.<i>Castaneda v. Pickard</i> gives more specific guidelines to measure a school’s compliance with Lau. The following questions become template of Castaneda test:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is school program anchored in sound educational theory?Are adequate resources and personnel evident?Does school program reflect sound practices and results in language and content areas?			1988 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Legislative settlement under President Reagan shifts 25% of Part A school program grants to English-only programs.	1998 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposition 227 in California passes, mandating that English should be the primary medium of instruction for language-minority students.These politics are seen as the “instruments of the politics of resentment toward massive immigration from developing countries in the 1980s and 1990s.”	
2000–2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">2001: No Child Left Behind Act requires schools to demonstrate that all students are making “adequate yearly progress” (AYP) on standardized tests.2002: <i>Arizona v. Gonsales</i> allows states to require English-only instruction in public schools.2006: <i>Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Obama</i> allows schools to use race as a factor in student assignment.2012: <i>English Language Proficiency Standards</i> adopted by many states.2017: <i>Trump v. Hawaii</i> allows the federal government to restrict immigration.2020: <i>Department of Education</i> releases <i>Guidance on the Identification, Assessment, and Educational Programs for Students with Limited English Proficiency</i>.						

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